Thurston's Philosophy *of* Marriage

Some Startling Conclusions of a Qualified Observer

Tiffany Press New York

"Like a Flash of Chain Lightning on a Dark Night"

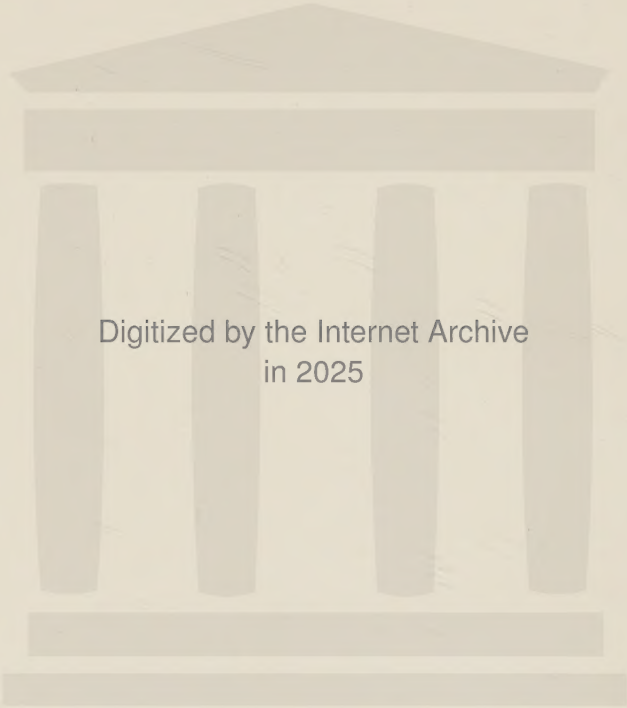
Using a form of presentation unique in the history of the publishing business, and fewer words than usually go to make up a single chapter of an ordinary book, the author of this book has brilliantly illuminated a subject that has been shrouded in darkness and mystery for centuries. What is still more remarkable, he offers a clean-cut and readily practicable solution for the problem of marriage.

* * *

Many reputable physicians throughout the country, to whom advance proofs of the book were submitted for comment before publication, agree that the condition exists as described in the book, and that the conclusions as drawn are warranted by the facts.

* * *

If you are unhappily married; if you contemplate marriage; if you love or hate your husband or your wife; if you desire your children to be physically and mentally perfect; if you are unhappy or discontented or unsuccessful in business and do not know the cause, or if you are now happy and successful in business and wish to remain so, this book will be worth to you a thousand times its weight in gold.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by

WILLIAM ROBERT THURSTON

The Conclusions of a
Qualified Observer

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

WILLIAM R. THURSTON spent approximately ten years in the United States Army, and left the Service in 1919 with the rank of Major. During this period he served in several foreign countries, including five years in China, which country is probably the best laboratory in the world today for a study of the effects of marriage laws and customs which have there been given a thorough test for a period of approximately 5,000 years, and which are, in all essential respects, identical with our own and with those of the rest of the civilized world.

While in China Mr. Thurston obtained the opinions of many American, French, German and British physicians resident there, also the opinions of several British medical officers who had seen long service in India, covering various phases of the subject treated herein, particularly the subject of venereal disease, which has infected practically the entire populations of both these Eastern countries.

During the war Mr. Thurston was Personnel and Statistical Officer of the Headquarters, 35th Division, Headquarters, 2nd Army, and Headquarters, 4th Army Corps, American Expeditionary Forces in France, and the Army

of Occupation in Germany. He has resided for varying periods in a number of the larger cities of the United States, and has been a resident of New York City for the past eight years, engaged in the promotion of various business enterprises.

FOREWORD

IN the following pages I have endeavored to state, in the fewest words possible, a condition which I sincerely believe to be responsible for the greater part of all the ills of the world today. This condition requires a remedy. A remedy is therefore suggested, also in the fewest possible words.

My conclusions as set forth in the book are based on the following:

(1) Personal observation in several countries during the past twenty years.

(2) Data obtained from physicians, principally obstetricians and gynecologists, who agree almost unanimously that the condition exists as described. (I personally interviewed over one hundred physicians and corresponded with several hundred more. A number of these physicians, all members of the American Medical Association, are now acting as my special advisors.)

(3) Statistics compiled by bureaus of social hygiene.

(4) Statistics compiled by medical examiners during the war.

The form of presentation of the subject has been deliberately selected as being capable of quick comprehension by the masses of the people, for whom the book is intended.

—*The Author.*

THE CONDITION

HAVING resided for considerable periods of time in the United States, Germany, France, the Philippine Islands, and China, and having carefully studied the effects of prevailing marriage laws and customs in these and other countries, I am impelled to the following conclusions:

1. That Nature never intended a woman to be bound to a man for life, and to be compelled to occupy the same bed or habitation with him, night after night, in pregnancy and out, in order to earn her board and lodging, and to exercise her natural right to bear children.

2. That the daily and nightly juxtaposition of the male and female, which is a result of present marriage laws and customs, leads to unrestrained sexual intercourse, which perverts the natural instincts of both male and female, and makes partial prostitutes of 90% of all married women. This condition arises from the fact that married women have been led to believe that such prostitution of themselves is right and natural because it is legal, and that it is necessary in order to retain the affections of their husbands.

The continual, unrestrained sexual intercourse which results from the application of present marriage laws has the following injurious effects:

(a) It causes the woman to become highly nervous, prematurely aged, diseased, irritable, restless, discontented, and incapable of properly caring for such children as she may bear.

(b) Among the poorer classes it leads to the propagation of many children who are not wanted, and who cannot be cared for properly when they arrive. Neglect of the children leads to disease and makes sex perverts, degenerates and criminals. *Childbirth, too frequently repeated, renders the female genitive tract highly susceptible to cancer.*

(c) Among the higher classes, unrestrained sexual intercourse, for which the male and the marriage laws are responsible, leads to the practice of contraception and abortion. These practices, together with the sometimes daily misuse of the female genitive organ by the male, lead to various serious diseases of that organ, common among which is cancer, and lead also to the ultimate perversion or destruction of the maternal instinct. *If contraceptive methods, under the name of "birth*

control" or any other name, are taught to the majority of the women of the masses, the race will become generally diseased, demoralized, depraved and will eventually perish.

(d) Excessive sexual intercourse drains the male of the vitality necessary for earning a good living under present conditions; it renders him weak, predisposed to tuberculosis and other diseases, ambitionless, nervous, irritable, and consequently discontented and unhappy. Eventually it kills him before his time. *At present there are approximately 2,000,000 more widows in the United States than there are widowers. Comparatively few of these are war widows.* The great majority of married men become physical wrecks before they reach fifty.

(e) The excessive sexual intercourse incident to the present married state develops in the minds of both male and female a sense of futility, which renders life seemingly purposeless, and which greatly retards, or altogether defeats achievement by the male. *The poverty of the world today, and the slums of the larger cities, are not due to lack of profitable labor to be performed, but to excessive, unrestrained sexual intercourse, resulting from present marriage laws.*

(f) In order to escape from the terrific boredom incident to the present unnatural mar-

ried state, a ceaseless round of social activities is indulged in by the average young married couple after the novelty of marriage disappears. When these social activities cease longer to distract them, the parties to the marriage either separate by mutual consent, become divorced for cause, or resignedly settle down to a monotonous, unnatural, unhappy existence.Many attempt to find solace in false religions, drugs or liquor; the majority indulge in periodic, enervating, devitalizing, demoralizing sexual excesses with no intention of producing children thereby, but merely as an antidote for their boredom, until death effects a release. Many suicides and many murders, like the notorious Hall-Mills and Snyder-Gray cases, are direct results of present marriage laws.

(g) Most serious of all from the standpoint of the future of the human race is sexual intercourse during pregnancy, for which our present unnatural marriage laws are wholly responsible. This abuse of sexual relations is indulged in to an extent little dreamed of by the average unmarried person, to whom the thought is naturally revolting; but it is realized by physicians. It frequently causes an interruption of the gestation (miscarriage), and occasionally puerperal sepsis (blood poisoning). It also causes a terrific nervous

excitation on the part of the mother, which is transmitted to and injures the unborn child, causing it to be less near to perfection in physique and mentality than was intended by Nature, and than it would have been had the mother been left alone by the male during pregnancy to develop the child properly.

(h) The older schools of obstetrics taught, and most of the newer ones still teach, that sexual intercourse during pregnancy is allowable up to the eighth month. My study of this subject would indicate that such teachings are capable of far-reaching injury. The following will serve to illustrate my point:

If a virile bull breaks into a pen with a pregnant cow, the latter will make every effort within her power to avoid him. If she be unable to do so, the stock raiser always expects to be presented later on with a defective calf. This calf may have three or five legs, or two tails or two heads, or an abnormal number of internal organs, or it may have minor defects not readily noticeable; and this principle applies to the breeding of all other animals, including human beings. When an accident of this kind occurs, the stock raiser does not attempt to attribute it to any other than its true cause, i.e., sexual

intercourse during pregnancy; and his natural procedure is to make better provision for the future to keep bulls away from his pregnant cows.

Human beings, in the belief that they are immune from the consequences of violating the natural laws which govern the relationship of the sexes among all animals, use present marriage laws as an excuse for forcing a woman, in pregnancy and out, to occupy the same bed or habitation with a man who is, in fact, only a bull in human form, in so far as sex matters are concerned. The belief that a man cannot go for long periods without sexual intercourse is everywhere current. This is true only if he be subjected nightly to the terrific sex appeal of a semi-nude bed companion. As this condition universally prevails, it results in the universal indulgence of an unbridled sexual passion; and sexual intercourse during pregnancy is the rule rather than the exception, as physicians will testify. Furthermore, human beings continue this practice from generation to generation in the fond belief that in spite of so doing the individual can be made happy and that the race will be improved.

Nothing could be farther from the truth, as data obtained by physicians, observation, and statistics compiled during the war will

The Author's son, William R. Thurston, Jr.

A perfect specimen of healthy, happy,
highly intelligent childhood.

The Author's home at Southfield Point, on Long Island Sound,
near Stamford, Connecticut.

clearly indicate. As a matter of fact, many ills and great suffering are directly traceable to excessive sexual intercourse during the non-pregnant state; and sexual intercourse during pregnancy is responsible for an almost endless list of physical and mental defects in children, ranging in degree all the way from color-blindness to idiocy; and the number of physical and mental defectives, due to this cause, is rapidly increasing from year to year. It is also responsible for universal unhappiness among married women who know instinctively that it is harmful, but who are at present helpless to prevent it.

(i) Venereal disease contracted by men before or after marriage, usually from unwanted, neglected, uninstructed girls of the poor, who themselves are a direct product of present marriage laws, is frequently transmitted to the wife; and such venereal disease, combined with that contracted by girls prior to marriage, together with sexual intercourse during pregnancy, causes a number of more or less serious physical and mental defects in the children. Some of these defects are inherited by the succeeding generation, which, in turn, contracts venereal disease, practices contraception and abortion, indulges in sex-

ual intercourse during pregnancy and passes on to the generation that succeeds it,both new and inherited physical and mental defects. Continued for a period of thousands of years, this conduct is capable of causing, and has caused, the degeneration and extermination of nations.

If you will glance back over the pages of history, you cannot help but be struck by the fact that nation after nation has risen, flourished for a time and then died out. Mesopotamia, Arabia, and Egypt in particular are now the habitats of degenerate remnants of such nations. This degeneration and decay of nations was not caused by wars or by overwork. All such nations had marriage customs similar to our own, in that the male made a virtual slave of the female in the matter of sexual intercourse, to an extent that precluded the female from exercising her natural instincts relating to race propagation. The result of this condition was a steadily degenerating offspring, which ultimately became so diseased as to be incapable of further propagation of healthy, fertile children able to live to maturity.

China and India, teeming with their millions upon millions of syphilitic, leprous, de-

generate, degraded, poverty-stricken men, women and children, living in filth and squalor, are today headed straight for extermination, and are two more striking examples of what inevitably happens to human beings when the genitive organ of the female is placed at the disposal of the male, in exchange for bed and board.

China and India are several thousand years old, whereas the United States has been in existence for less than three hundred years. Yet ample evidence is available to indicate that this country, like all others, is headed straight for a repetition of the fearful conditions under which the inhabitants of China and India are now living.

Picture a country--China—where unnatural marriage laws, *identical in every essential feature with our own*, have forced women to bear unwanted, defective children by the millions; where families have become so large and numerous and the resultant poverty so great that many girl babies are killed because they are regarded as non-producers and as the source of the evil of over-population. Picture a country where 98% of the 400,000,000 population live in one-story mud

huts, placed side by side without intervals between, even in the rural districts. In the center of a group of these one-story mud huts is always located a public latrine, consisting of four shallow trenches without covering of any kind, dug in the form of a square fifteen or twenty feet on a side, surrounded by a wall, but without a roof; used by both sexes and all ages, without privacy of any kind, and frequented by swarms of flies.

Picture the one-room mud huts surrounding the latrine, without screen doors or windows, occupied at night by families ranging in number from five to fifteen persons, scarcely one of whom ever bathes, sleeping nude, boys and girls together on a single mud brick bed or on matting on a mud floor, beneath which live swarms of rats. Living under these conditions the girls have sexual intercourse with their several brothers, and with the boys of nearby families, contract venereal disease, and spread it throughout the land. *Physicians of several nationalities, resident in China, to whom I have talked, stated bluntly that in their opinion 75% of the population of China is now syphilitic, and that a still higher percentage have one or more other forms of venereal disease.*

As all members of practically every family are infested with body and head lice, which travel from person to person, this fact, considered with the presence and feeding habits of millions of flies, rats and fleas, sufficiently indicates a cause for the terrible plagues that from time to time sweep the country, killing millions upon millions of persons within a period of a few months.

Picture a country where continuous, uncontrolled breeding for centuries, *which breeding is a direct result of marriage laws identical in every essential feature with our own*,—has produced so great a surplus population, with the resultant struggle for existence so terrific, that millions of women and girls prostitute themselves for the few pennies necessary to purchase the next meal. Thousands of these prostitutes range in age from ten to fifteen years, and *all* carry and distribute gratis some of the most loathsome diseases ever provided by Nature as penalties for the violation of natural laws.

Picture a country, where, owing to unnatural marriage laws, the men have so soiled and degraded their women that the latter are no longer capable of inspiring their men to any effort beyond that necessary to provide the minimum of shelter, and the scantiest

kind of a hand-to-mouth livelihood; where, owing to this fact, you may travel from one end of the country to the other without finding a single building, monument, or other structure, built by Chinese, capable of provoking even a moment's admiration. The Great Wall itself is a mud-brick monstrosity, useless for the military purpose for which it was intended; started by a degenerate emperor with an exaggerated fear complex, and built at a staggering cost by a nation of men without valor.

Today the Chinese have no more, probably much less, valor than when the wall was built; they are a nation of degenerates; of shameless cowards, as helpless in combat as children, and it was the consensus of opinion among the foreign military men in China that one hundred American, British, French, or German soldiers were equivalent in fighting power to ten thousand Chinese.

The foregoing is a true picture of the present condition of the population of a country that has tried out marriage laws *similar in every essential feature to our own*, for a period of approximately 5,000 years. To attempt to ascribe the condition of the country to anything other than unrestrained sexual

intercourse, resulting from unnatural marriage laws, would be a waste of time.

If the United States, with its large cities already swarming with hordes of unwanted, defective children, the girls of whom are already spreading venereal disease throughout the land, is to be prevented from arriving at and slipping into the dreadful mire in which the inhabitants of China and India are at present wallowing, something should be done about it *now*. This something should take the form of national education concerning the natural laws which pertain to the relationship of the sexes; and when this education shall have been carried to a certain point, then new and correct marriage laws should be drafted.

No engineer would attempt to build a railroad bridge across a river without first learning the effect of the natural laws pertaining to stress and strain on his structure; and no railroad bridge built without regard to the effects of natural laws could be expected to fulfill for long its purpose.

In the same way, no set of practicable marriage laws can be drafted without first giving full consideration to the natural laws which govern the relationship of the sexes; *and no social state constructed other than in accordance with such natural laws can long endure.*

THE REMEDY

THE natural instinct in all male animals, including human beings, is for the male to offer his services for the purpose of sexual intercourse to all attractive females within the area of his rovings. Among the lower animals, the female selects the male most pleasing to her, unhampered in her choice by any latent desire for food, clothing or protection. She then permits the male so selected to have sexual intercourse with her, *until she is pregnant*, then, in certain species, she either drives him away or leaves him. In others, she permits him to remain nearby to help provide for the young, *but she does not, in the natural state outside of captivity, allow the male to have sexual intercourse with her again, until a certain time after the birth of the offspring.*

Compare this eminently sensible conduct of the lower animals with present customs and teachings of human beings throughout the greater portion of the world that lead young girls to believe that sexual intercourse is improper until marriage, and imply that any amount of it after marriage is natural, legal and proper. Such customs and teachings are almost wholly responsible for the millions of disillusioned, diseased, unhappy,

embittered married and ex-married men and women now living, and also for hordes of unwanted, defective, unhappy children, who fill the slums of every city, and who are to be found in lesser numbers in every community throughout the world.

Normal children and unmarried persons up to a certain age are, for the most part, genuinely happy. This condition of happiness is capable of continuing until several months or even years after marriage, depending upon the temperaments and intelligence of the married couple. Careful observation of the conduct of older married couples in the various civilized countries of the world today indicates most emphatically that few are happy, and that few are in a condition even approximately approaching this state. Most married couples will tell you, or will pretend, that they are happy, but it does not require the exercise of more than ordinary intelligence and observation to discover that they are not.

The few married couples that are happy will be found to be those who have, or who have had, healthy children; couples who are themselves healthy, who have learned the natural purpose for sexual intercourse before injury to either party has resulted from it,

who employ it only for its natural purpose, and who occupy separate sleeping quarters. All of these requirements must be satisfied in order to approach a state of happiness under present marriage laws; and they represent a combination of conditions at present next to impossible of realization by the masses, whose condition is the true condition of the nation.

If the human race is to endure, and mankind be made perfect physically, normal mentally, contented and happy, our present marriage laws must be amended to conform more closely with natural laws, -in fact, they should be amended to conform absolutely. The following procedure, or something like it, is necessary to effect this:

(a) All children, especially girls, should be instructed at an early age that sexual intercourse is intended for a definite purpose, namely, to produce children, and for no other purpose, and that indulgence in it for pleasure alone, even after marriage, will inevitably result in a long procession of ills, both to the individual and to the race. *No more secrecy should surround the discussion of sexual intercourse than now surrounds the discussion of food or any other vital topic.*

(b) All girls should be taught to be self-supporting, so that all marriages would be the result of natural selection, and not the result of necessity, or fear of the future; also so that, in an emergency after marriage, the wife may be qualified to support the family. *No marriage should take place unless separate sleeping quarters can be provided for each party.*

(c) When couples contemplate marriage, a satisfactory health certificate should be required of each party; each party to submit to a medical examination by a physician employed by the other.

(d) The marriage contract should not be for life, and should contain the following provisions, or their equivalent:

1. The marriage contract should state that the woman accepts the man as her mate for an indefinite period of time, and that the contract may be terminated at the request of either party.

2. The marriage contract should provide that the man may have sexual intercourse with the woman only when and if she desires it. If she has been properly educated, she will be qualified to regulate this matter. Females of the lower species of animals now do.

3. The marriage contract should provide that the man accept responsibility for the

support of the woman for the period of the contract, and that, if the contract be terminated by either party when the woman is pregnant, the man would be required to support the woman until a certain number of months after the birth of the child. If, however, the woman were to take another mate before such number of months had elapsed, the man's support of her would cease.

4. If the contract were cancelled by the woman when non-pregnant, her support by the man would immediately cease.

5. The marriage contract should require that the man accept responsibility for the support of his child until such child had attained an age at which it would be capable of, and if possible actually supporting itself. This provision should apply regardless of whether the contract were cancelled by the man or woman.

6. The mother is the natural custodian of the child; and if the contract be cancelled by either party, the child should remain in the custody of the mother, unless she be proved to be unfit; with the father privileged to see the child at will, and to assist in its education.

7. Property of any kind owned by either party at the time of the marriage should

continue to be individually owned. Property of any kind acquired by either party after marriage, including income received from property owned by either party prior to marriage, should, during the life of the marriage contract, be kept in a joint account, and be regarded as family property. If the marriage contract be cancelled, this joint account should be divided into as many parts as there are members of the family at date of cancellation; and if the mother be given the custody of the children, she would be entitled to receive her own portion of the joint account, together with the children's portions.

Although a woman may, in special cases under this proposed system, have two or more mates during her lifetime, the general effect of this system would be that the great majority of marriages would result in happy unions for life. This is so for the reason that, with the marriage originally the result of natural selection; with the continuance of the marriage relation dependent upon the proper conduct of both parties; with the wife properly educated in matters of sex, and, if necessary, economically independent of her husband; and with other women properly instructed in sex and economically indepen-

dent of men, the wife could remain sexually unsoiled by her husband, fully as attractive and inspiring to him as before marriage, and she, together with her children, would represent all that the normal man would require as an incentive to accomplishment. *No normal husband will tire of a naturally selected wife until permitted by her to surfeit himself with sexual intercourse.*

Add to this that the husband, instead of becoming an impotent, saddened, meek or morose, ineffectual, dull, ambitionless, hollow-shell-of-a-human-being from ten to fifteen years after marriage, as is now the usual case, due to his having drained himself of his vitality,—his very life,—in the promotion of contraceptive methods, miscarriages and abortions, or in the production of unwanted, surplus children as at present, would, on his part, continue to be virile, enthusiastic, productive, interested in life and sufficiently attractive to his wife to hold her permanent interest, affection and respect.

If a woman should, due to the misconduct of her husband, or to incompatibility of temperament, divorce herself from her husband under this proposed system, or should become widowed, and should take another mate before her child or children had reached maturity, the new mate would not be in a

position to inflict the harm on the step-children that is now frequently done by step-fathers under our present marriage laws. For, under this proposed system, his continuance as a member of the family would depend solely upon his conduct towards the children, and otherwise upon his part, being of such a nature as to meet with the approval of the wife, who is particularly fitted by Nature for the care, protection and early training of her children, and best qualified to know what treatment they should receive.

A Federal Marriage Law should be drafted which should provide for a *central bureau* for the registration of marriage contracts, to which bureau any woman might apply for the necessary information to determine the marital status of a prospective mate before contracting marriage with him. The law should require the registration of all marriage contracts and all births and deaths at such bureau.

A system of records for a bureau of this kind would not be difficult to devise, and would require only two cards for each married couple. Changes in the marital status of each couple, together with the record of births, and deaths, should be entered on the cards.

A system of records similar to that used by the American Expeditionary Forces in France would be admirably suited to the needs of such a proposed Central Marriage Records Bureau. This system of records provided for *daily* changes in the status of over two million soldiers, and it gave the American Expeditionary Forces the best record of its personnel ever possessed by an active military force. The clerical work involved in recording daily changes on the two million cards for the personnel of the American Expeditionary Forces was many times greater than would be the work required to make one or two changes per year on ninety million cards, or the approximate number that would be required for the Central Marriage Record Bureau. Furthermore, the cost of operating such central system of records would be only a fraction of the cost now involved in recording marriages and births by the present multitude of bureaus in forty-eight different states.

Such a radical change in the marriage laws as above suggested cannot be instituted in a day. It will require many years of carefully planned, educational publicity before the present system can properly be abolished. Otherwise the country will find itself in the

chaotic condition, with regard to marriage, in which Russia is today.

Before so radical a change in the present marriage laws is warranted, the facts pertaining to the operation of the natural laws which govern the relationship of the sexes must be brought to the attention of, and understood by, the majority of the population, both young and old.

Once the operation of these natural laws is understood by the majority of all classes, the time will then be ripe for a change in the marriage laws, to make them conform absolutely with the laws of nature. Only by so doing can the race hope to escape degeneration, decay, poverty, misery and ultimate extermination.

When ALL women comprehend that they hold a priceless possession, given them by Nature, so highly prized by unsated men that if it be withheld from them they will undertake the most difficult enterprises, or will even risk their lives to attain it; and when correct marriage laws are drafted that will assist women to conserve this natural asset after marriage, then poverty will vanish from the face of the earth, for men will then use their excess vitality for the production of food, the procurement of shelter, and for higher accomplishment. There will be no more unwanted, defective children,

who, when grown, may properly be regarded as a kind of human bacilli employed by Nature to tear down social structures not built in accordance with natural laws. Wars will cease, for wars are caused by the existence and acts of multitudes of discontented men who were once unwanted, defective children, and who are now willing to follow any leader who seems to offer a way to correct an obviously unsatisfactory social order. Asylums for the insane, now filled almost exclusively by sex perverts or their offspring, and prisons, now used almost exclusively for the confinement of men and women who were once unwanted, defective children, will gradually become empty.

When ALL women learn the potential value of their possession, and also learn the vital necessity of its conservation after marriage as well as before, then the species will become magnificent in strength of body and brilliance of mind; radiant health will make it immune to disease; life will be indefinitely prolonged; revolutionary achievements by both men and women will follow each other in rapid succession; inter-planetary and inter-stellar communication and transit will be realized, and the race will at last be headed straight towards its coveted goal, the seat of power of the universe,—in the general direction of which it has, for many centuries, been hopefully plodding.

APPENDIX "A"

IT is possibly superfluous for me to state that as a profession the physicians of this country, particularly the obstetricians, are a sincere, industrious, conscientious and capable fraternity. They most certainly have my unqualified respect and esteem. They, to the exclusion of all other professions, possess the facts relative to the multiplicity of diseases, both nervous and organic, that afflict men and women, —especially women,—after marriage. They also possess the knowledge that an astonishing number of physical and mental disorders prior to marriage are directly traceable to a perverted sex instinct.

When I required verification for some of the premises on which my conclusions are based, I went to the medical profession, — and to obstetricians and gynecologists principally, —to obtain it. But, in submitting this book to physicians for opinion careful consideration should be given the state of facts described below:

The majority of physicians now practicing have been taught that sexual intercourse during pregnancy is allowable up to the eighth month; and many of these physicians have

been passing this information on to their women patients for years.

"Thurston's Philosophy of Marriage" contains a blunt statement to the effect that such practice is capable of far-reaching injury; and it will be found that physicians in the class above referred to, if the book be submitted to them for comment, will exhibit a marked, unfavorable, sometimes almost violent reaction when they read this statement, for it condemns a harmful practice which they have been ignorantly or knowingly abetting for years. When they have done this knowingly, it has been in the belief that by so doing they were assisting the patient in keeping her husband faithful. Many of these physicians now realize that the practice is harmful and that they may have been indirectly responsible for scores of miscarriages, with their frequently resultant injurious complications, and for many defective children. Such physicians cannot be expected to reverse themselves instantly with regard to this matter, and their natural reaction is to condemn the Philosophy.

Frequently, however, an obstetrician will be found who will state in unqualified terms that sexual intercourse during pregnancy is horrible; that it is positively injurious to both mother and child, and that it places human

beings on a moral plane below that of the lower animals. One such physician, a former Professor of Obstetrics at New York University, brilliant, highly successful in his profession, and himself the son of a physician, acted as my chief medical advisor during the period when this book was being prepared for publication. This physician, and others like him, several of which I have discovered, will also state positively that excessive sexual intercourse is the rule among young married couples; that it is directly responsible for many nervous and organic disorders; that contraceptive methods and artificial abortions are capable of serious injury to the female genitive tract, and that such practices will ultimately pervert and destroy the maternal instinct.

In order to avoid the natural reaction of the class of physician first described above, I was compelled to discontinue showing the book and to ask the following principal questions:

(1) Are not present marriage laws and customs responsible for the indulgence of an unbridled sexual passion on the part of married couples?

The answer to this question was yes, almost invariably.

(2) Is sexual intercourse during pregnancy the exception or the rule among married couples?

Almost invariably the answer to this question was that it is the rule.

(3) Is sexual intercourse during pregnancy capable of causing (a) Interruption of the gestation (miscarriage); (b) Puerperal sepsis (blood poisoning)?

The answer to this question was yes, invariably.

(4) Is sexual intercourse during pregnancy capable of causing defects in the child?

The answer to this question was about 25% affirmative and 75% negative, depending upon the intelligence, training and practices of the physician. It is not to be expected that the average physician who has been advising or condoning sexual intercourse during pregnancy will admit that the practice is capable of causing physical or mental defects in children.

(5) If sexual intercourse during pregnancy is not responsible for defective children, what is?

The answer to this question varies greatly. Some physicians give venereal disease as the cause; but where the parents

are not so diseased and the child is defective, many physicians give an indefinite answer, or merely state that no one knows.

(6) Are contraceptive methods used by the majority of educated married women?

The answer to this question was yes, invariably.

(7) Are contraceptive methods capable of causing serious injury to the female genitive tract?

The answer to this question was about 75% affirmative and 25% negative.

(8) Are artificial abortions capable of causing serious injury to the female genitive tract?

The answer to this question was yes, almost invariably.

Therefore, in submitting "Thurston's Philosophy of Marriage" to physicians for comment, the conditions with regard to their instruction and practice should be carefully borne in mind in considering their reactions.

Dr. Katherine Bement Davis, General Secretary for the Bureau of Social Hygiene, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York, has for several years past been conducting a study of a remarkable kind, with a view to making available in documentary form, probably for the

first time in the history of the world, facts relating to married life that have been matters of common knowledge among physicians and married couples for centuries.

In the course of her work Dr. Davis has corresponded with 10,000 educated married women throughout the United States, and the results of her research have been published under the title "A Study of the Sex Life of the Normal Married Woman." This research proves, even to the satisfaction of the uninitiated, that the condition as described in "Thurston's Philosophy of Marriage" exists among married couples in the United States.

APPENDIX "B"

THE following statistics may prove somewhat startling to those who believe that present marriage laws are quite satisfactory for the purpose for which they were enacted, which is, —the protection of society and the improvement of the race; and equally startling to those who believe that the United States is a country blessed with a stalwart, healthy, vigorous manhood, from which much may in future be expected.

The figures are taken from a United States Government publication of 1663 pages, entitled "Defects Found in Drafted Men," published in 1920. It is available for reference at the larger libraries:

Number of men examined in the United States during the war for military service	2,510,595
Number of these men found to be physically or mentally defective	1,289,403
Number of these men found to be too defective for military service of any kind	549,099

The ages of those examined ranged from 18 to 45 years, which covers the period within which men are in their best physical condition.

Fifty-one per cent of these men were physically or mentally defective, and more than twenty per cent of the total were wholly unfit for military service of any kind. From eight to eighteen per cent of the Whites, forty per cent of the Negroes and sixty per cent of the Indians examined were found to have some form of venereal disease.

If present marriage laws and customs are not speedily changed, the percentage of physical and mental defectives among both men and women will steadily increase from year to year; the Nation will, at no far distant date, find itself in the present terrible condition of China and India; and it will, within a few thousand years, become so diseased and degenerate as to be no longer fit or able to exist.

The following is an extract from a letter typical of many received by the author from educated, intelligent married women:

"The condition as described in your book does exist most tragically among married couples in the United States, as I know—both from personal acquaintance and from observation at large.

* * *

"I certainly believe that the book should be published, widely advertised and sold. It should be printed on hand bills and carried from door to door; it should be advertised on sign boards throughout the country; it should be showered upon the heads of proper departments of the government and should be brought to the attention of the head of our nation. It is a great need for all the world.

* * *

"Sex, in reality the most vital concern of all existence, is ignored (as an issue), made light of, refused progress—while the state of 'Civilization' *presumably* increases. One hears of great plans for including in the public schools courses which will teach girls to be 'wives' and 'mothers.' To teach them to be mothers is very good, but, has there ever been the prospect of a similar course to teach boys to be *fathers* and more especially *husbands?*

* * *

"I wish you every manner of success in the furtherance of your 'Remedy' and eagerly would I help such a cause, as would millions of women,—if they knew and understood."

Sincerely,
Dorothy G. Stackhouse.
(Mrs. Robert H. V. Stackhouse.)

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